GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:277
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2015
Ground Water Level
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the State/UT-wise areas found to be over exploited, deemed critical and semi critical pertaining to ground water as per the data available with the Central Ground Water Board and other agencies;
(b) whether various agencies including World Bank have cautioned over exploitation of ground water in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the follow up action taken thereon;
(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to develop and manage ground water level in the country; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE HON'BLE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *277 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2015 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "GROUND WATER LEVEL" ASKED BY SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA AND SHRI LALLU SINGH, HON'BLE M.Ps, LOK SABHA:
(a) As per the latest assessment (Year-2011) of Dynamic Ground Water Resources, carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the State Governments, out of 6607 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas/ Firkas/ Districts) in the Country, 1071 units falling in 16 States and 2 UTs have been categorized as 'Over-Exploited'. In additionÂ¸ 217 assessment units are 'Critical' and 697 Semi-Critical on the basis of declining ground water level and stage of ground water development. State/UT-wise details are given at Annexure.
(b) to (d) Several reports by international organizations such as World Bank, United Nations International Children`s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Food & Agriculture Organization(FAO), United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP) etc. have mentioned about ground water related issues and challenges in the Country, and suggested a number of measures like an increase in water tariffs in urban settings; optimizing crop water requirements; conjunctive use of surface and ground water in specific areas; ground water recharge to manage over-exploitation of ground water etc. which, inter-alia, include measures to be taken for sustainable development and management of ground water in the Country.
Government has taken several initiatives to manage ground water level in the Country. These include:

i. National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR which, inter-alia, advocates rain water harvesting and conservation of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall.
ii. CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. Under this program, about 8.89 lakh sq.km prioritized water stressed areas has been taken up with an aim to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization along with quantification and for preparation of aquifer/ area specific ground water management plans. Aquifer-wise management plans will be shared with concerned State governments for implementation.
iii. As per Schedule-I of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water constitute a special focus area for MGNREGA works and about 2/3rd of the expenditure is directly related to construction of water harvesting structures.
iv. Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.

v. CGWB has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013, involving ground water scientists/experts. The Master Plan envisages construction of 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country at an estimated cost of Rs. 79,178 Crore to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purpose. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.
vi. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directives to the Chief Secretaries of all States and the Administrators of all UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. 30 States/UTs have made rain

water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in Building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
vii. Ministry of Urban Development in its Draft Model Building Bye-laws (2015) has incorporated a Chapter on Provision of Rain Water Harvesting.
viii. CGWB has been organizing mass awareness programmes in the Country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.
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ANNEXURE
Annexure referred in reply to Part (a) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 277 to be answered on 17.12.2015 regarding "Ground Water Level"
CATEGORIZATION OF BLOCKS/ MANDALS/ TALUKAS IN INDIA
(As Per Year 2011)

S.No.	States / Union Territories	Total No. of Assessed Units	Over-Exploited	Critical	Semi-critical
		Nos.	Nos.	Nos.	
1	Andhra Pradesh	662	41	7	42
2	Telangana	448	42	8	55
3	Arunachal Pradesh	11	0	0	0
4	Assam	27	0	0	0
5	Bihar	533	0	0	11
6	Chhattisgarh	146	1	2	18
7	Delhi	27	18	2	5
8	Goa	20	0	0	0
9	Gujarat	223	24	5	13
10	Haryana	116	71	15	7
11	Himachal Pradesh	8	1	2	0
12	Jammu & Kashmir	14	0	0	0
13	Jharkhand	210	6	0	5
14	Karnataka	270	63	21	34
15	Kerala	152	1	2	23
16	Madhya Pradesh	313	24	4	67
17	Maharashtra	353	10	2	16
18	Manipur	8	0	0	0
19	Meghalaya	7	0	0	0
20	Mizoram	22	0	0	0
21	Nagaland	8	0	0	0
22	Orissa	314	0	0	0
23	Punjab	138	110	4	2
24	Rajasthan	243	172	24	20
25	Sikkim	4	0	0	0
26	Tamil Nadu	1129	374	48	235
27	Tripura	39	0	0	0
28	Uttar Pradesh	820	111	68	82
29	Uttaranchal	18	0	2	5
30	West Bengal	271	0	1	53
	Total (States)	6554	1069	217	693
	Union Territories				
1	Andaman & Nicobar	36	0	0	0
2	Chandigarh	1	0	0	0
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	0
4	Daman & Diu	2	1	0	1
5	Lakshadweep	9	0	0	3
6	Pondicherry	4	1	0	0
	Total (UTs)	53	2	0	4
	Grand Total	6607	1071	217	697

CRITERIA FOR CATEGORIZATION
Over-Exploited : Stage of Ground water development - >100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon period or both
Critical : Stage of Ground Water Development - >90% and <=100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon period
Semi-Critical : Stage of Ground Water Development - > 70% and <=100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon period